



THE STRIKE SITUATION

Decide Against Universal And Equal Suffrage.

MANY ARRESTS ARE MADE.

Strikers Are Using the Strongest Measures to Enforce Complete Cessation of Business and Are Succeeding.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 26.—The emperor and his cabinet reached a final decision regarding the electoral law, deciding against universal and equal suffrage and in favor of the extension of the law promulgated August 19, last, in addition to the small land owners in the country, the workmen and the educated classes, the small rent payers in the cities. The details of this law were covered at the time in these dispatches.

The duma will be convoked in March.

In high government circles the greatest confidence is expressed that the general strike will fail. So far as St. Petersburg is concerned the strike is certainly going against the revolutionaries.

St. Petersburg.—Some of the strike leaders, already discouraged by the prospect of failure, do not hesitate to say that the decision to accept the challenge of the government while the organizations were unprepared was a blunder and that it can only be remedied by forcing a conflict which will arouse the populace.

A number of attacks were made on strikers by non-union workmen, who fear the strike will jeopardize the gratuities usually received by them during the Russian Christmas.

The Circum-Baikal railroad has been destroyed for a considerable distance by falling rocks. It is suspected that this destruction is the work of the revolutionaries who are interested in stopping the return of troops from the far east at this time.

St. Petersburg.—An official communication authorizes the governors of districts in which martial law has not been declared to permit the land owners to form a police organization for the protection of their properties.

Moscow.—The 12,000 persons who were besieged in the Aquarium forced the iron railings surrounding the building and effected their escape through an adjacent school house. A few were wounded in their attempts to escape the military cordon.

Seventy of those attending the meeting were arrested, but they were subsequently released. A few revolvers were seized, and many daggers and revolvers were left behind in the garden surrounding the school house. Demonstrations of the strikers were continued all day, but in every case they were dispersed by Cossacks and dragoons. Several persons were injured, but no one was killed.

During the day wholesale arrests were made.

All business has been stopped. Several of the baker shops have been plundered.

The strikers are using the strongest measures to enforce the complete cessation of business but notwithstanding these measures the postal operations continue.

Tell City, Ind., Dec. 27.—The steamer John W. Thomas sank in several feet of water here Wednesday and was practically destroyed by fire. The steamer was owned by the Louisville & Evansville Mail Line Company and was worth from \$15,000 to \$20,000.

Boy Killed With Meat Knife.

Burlington, La., Dec. 27.—Pally Freitag, 15 years old, was stabbed to death by Otto Shamburg, 20 years old. The boys were scuffling in a butcher shop when Shamburg seized a big meat knife and plunged it into Freitag's heart. Shamburg was arrested.

Change of Astronomers.

San Jose, Cal., Dec. 26.—Astronomer H. D. Curtis, of the Lick observatory, will sail from San Francisco December 30 for Santiago, where he will relieve W. H. Wright, in charge of the D. O. Mills observatory on Mount San Cristobal, to study the velocity of the stars.

El Paso, Tex., Dec. 27.—Manuel

Gonzales, with whom Alexander Dowle was negotiating for the purchase of plantations in Tamaulipas for the Zion colony, has given out a lengthy statement in which he says Dowle wanted long time payments and other conditions which were rejected.

One Year for Wykes.

New York, Dec. 26.—Thomas Farnise Wykes, the lawyer who was convicted of attempted blackmail by means of the "Lewis Jarvis" letters, was sentenced to one year in the penitentiary.

Died While Boxing.

Philadelphia, Pa., Dec. 26.—Patrick Reynolds, a young man living in the southern part of the city, died suddenly while boxing with Frank Shannahan, a friend. It is believed death was due to heart disease.

WHITE HOUSE CHRISTMAS.

General Gift Giving With All Business Suspended.

Washington, Dec. 27.—Official Washington celebrated Christmas by a general suspension of governmental business. Only matters of urgent importance were considered, no routine business being taken up. All of the government departments were closed to public business, but some of the cabinet officers were at their desks for a time attending to important mail and telegraphic advices.

President Roosevelt appeared at his office for only a brief time—just long enough, in fact, to dispose of a few matters of importance which demanded his attention. He did not attend church service, remaining during the morning hours with the members of his family. Intimate personal friends called at the White House in the morning, but for the most part no visitors were received.

During the morning there was general gift-giving at the White House. This exchange of presents was confined practically to members of the family. The president's third son, Archie, as usual, had a Christmas tree in his own room, and from that he distributed his gifts to the family and the household people. Mrs. Cowles, the president's sister, entertained the members of the family with a gift-giving at her home.

During the afternoon the president and Mrs. Roosevelt went for a long ride. A family dinner was given at the White House later in the day. Among the guests was Representative Nicholas Longworth, the fiancé of Miss Roosevelt.

The president has notified the members of his cabinet that during the present week there will be no regular meetings of the cabinet. He will take up during the week only matters of the most urgent importance and will receive no callers or visitors unless their business is imperative.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY OUSTED.

Irving Baxter, of Nebraska, Summarily Removed From Office.

Washington, Dec. 27.—Irving Baxter, United States district attorney for Nebraska, has been removed summarily from office by President Roosevelt. The announcement of Mr. Baxter's removal was made at the White House.

District Attorney Baxter, who was appointed to office last spring, prosecuted on behalf of the government the case against Richards & Comstock, cattle raisers, who were charged with fencing illegally the public lands in Nebraska, and whose prosecution was brought about by investigations into land frauds made under the direction of Secretary of the Interior Hitchcock. The men were convicted and sentenced to six hours in the custody of the United States marshal. In carrying out the sentence the United States marshal deputized the attorneys of Richards & Comstock to take charge of the defendants for the six hours of their sentence. For exercising this leniency the marshal was removed from office. Both the president and the department were dissatisfied with the manner in which the case had been prosecuted by District Attorney Baxter, and, as a result, Mr. Baxter's resignation was requested. After several days had elapsed Mr. Baxter responded to the request for his resignation with a declaration to resign. Thereupon President Roosevelt removed him from office.

Thus far no successor to Mr. Baxter has been selected. It is probable that the new appointee will not be announced until reconvention of the senate after the holiday recess of congress.

Big Storm in Pennsylvania.

Wilkesbarre, Pa., Dec. 26.—A heavy rain and wind storm, which practically reached the dimensions of a hurricane, swept the Wyoming valley. One man was killed and property was destroyed worth thousands of dollars in this city and surrounding towns.

YELLOW FEVER PREVAILS.

Ecuador Is the Scene of an Outbreak of the Epidemic.

Guayaquil, Ecuador, Dec. 26.—The Pacific Steam Navigation's steamer Peru, with Jos. W. J. Lee, the American minister to Ecuador, on board, arrived here. The Peru spent several days in an unsuccessful effort to rescue her sister ship, the Ecuador, which stranded December 14 on the Murcielagos rocks at the entrance to Port Ballena. The steamer Guatemala, of the same line, will leave here December 28 to attempt to rescue the Ecuador, the passengers and cargo of which were brought by the Peru.

Yellow fever is declared to be epidemic here.

JOHN C. NEW ACQUITTED.

Has Been Under Charge of Fraud for Many Years.

Noblesville, Ind., Dec. 26.—John C. New, formerly secretary of the treasury and consul general to London under President Harrison, and John C. Wright, his associate in business, were acquitted of charges of fraud in the sale of stocks in the First National Bank of Indianapolis, involving \$392,000. The transaction occurred in 1878, but suit was not filed until six years afterwards.

WELCOME THE COMING, SPEED THE PARTING GUEST; THE OLD YEAR AND THE NEW

ONE WORKING DAY FOR US ALL.

To-day the Only Period for Which We Are Accountable.

The coming year will have 365 days in its calendar, but really will have only one working day, and that is called "To-day." That is all you will be accountable for; none but a fool lives in to-morrow. Serve your Master by the day. Each four and twenty hours brings its own duties to be done, its own loads to be carried, and its own progress to be made heavenward. There never was a Christian yet strong enough to carry to-day's duties with to-morrow's worries piled on the top of them. Take short views, and never try to climb walls until you get to them, or to cross a bridge until you reach it. Begin every day with Jesus Christ, and then, keeping step with him, march on to duty over the roughest road that lies before you and in the teeth of the hardest head wind you may encounter. "My times are in thy hands," and they could not be in better hands. Our times are in our all-wise and all-loving Father's hands, both for control and for concealment. He takes care of us, and yet we can not tell just what to-morrow or the next year will bring forth.

Facing the New Year.

A new year is upon us, with new duties, new conflicts, new trials, and new opportunities. Start on the journey with Jesus—to walk with him, to work for him, and to win souls to him. A happy year will be to those who through every path of trial, or up every hill of difficulty, or over every sunny height, march on in closest fellowship with Jesus, and who will determine that, come what may, they have Christ every day.—Theodore L. Cuyler, D.D.

Children's Day in Russia.

In Russia New Year's is especially the children's day. Among the peasants the old-time frolics and games are renewed. It is a practice among the boys to arm themselves with a supply of shelled wheat and dried peas and to go from house to house in the small hours of the morning. They present themselves unbidden in a neighbor's house, where the doors are always unlocked, and pelt him with wheat, or peas till he offers cakes or fruit as a truce.

The Closing Year

'Tis midnight's holy hour—and silence now
Is brooding, like a gentle spirit, o'er
The still and pulseless world. Hark! on the winds
The bell's deep tones are swelling; 'tis the knell
Of the departed year. No funeral train
Is sweeping past; yet, on the stream and wood,
With melancholy light, the moonbeams rest,
Like a pale spotless shroud; the air is stirred,
As by a mourner's sigh; and on yon cloud,
That floats so still and placidly through heaven,
The spirits of the seasons seem to stand,
Young Spring, bright Summer, Autumn's solemn
form,

And Winter, with his aged locks, and breathe
In mournful cadences, that come abroad
Like the far windharp's wild and touching wail,
A melancholy dirge o'er the dead year,
Gone from the earth forever. 'Tis a time
For memory and for tears. Within the deep,
Still chambers of the heart, a specter dim,
Whose tones are like the wizard voice of Time
Heard from the tomb of ages, points its cold
And solemn finger to the beautiful
And holy visions that have passed away,
And left no shadow of their loveliness
On the dead waste of life. That specter lifts
The coffin lid of hope, and joy, and love,
And, bending mournfully above the pale
Sweet forms that slumber there, scatters dead
flowers

O'er what has passed to nothingness. The year
Has gone, and, with it, many a glorious throng
Of happy dreams. Its mark is on each brow,
Its shadows in each heart. In its swift course
It waved its scepter o'er the beautiful,
And they are not. It laid its pallid hand
Upon the strong man, and the haughty form
Is fallen, and the flashing eyes are dim.
It trod the hall of revelry, where throng'd
The bright and joyous, and the tearful wail
Of stricken ones is heard, where erst the song
And reckless shout resounded. It passed o'er
The battle plain, where sword and spear and
shield

Flash'd in the light of midday—and the strength
Of serried hosts is shiver'd, and the grass,
Green from the soil of carnage, waves above
The crush'd and mouldering skeleton. It came
And faded like a wreath of mist at eve;
Yet, ere, it melted in the viewless air,
It heralded its millions to their home
In the dim land of dreams. Remorseless Time—
Fierce spirit of the glass and scythe—what power
Can stay him in his silent course, or melt
His iron heart to pity? On, still on
He presses, and forever. The proud bird,
The condor of the Andes, that can soar
Through heaven's unfathomable depths, or brave
The fury of the northern hurricane,
And bathe his plumage in the thunder's home,
Furls his broad wings at nightfall, and sinks down
To rest upon the mountain crag—But Time
Knows not the weight of sleep or weariness,
And night's deep darkness has no chain to bind
His rushing pinion. Revolutions sweep
O'er earth, like troubled visions o'er the breast
Of dreaming sorrow; cities rise and sink
Like bubbles on the water; fiery isles
Spring, blazing, from the ocean, and go back
To their mysterious caverns; mountains rear
To heaven their bald and blackened cliff, and bow
Their tall heads to the plain; new empires rise
Gathering the strength of hoary centuries
And rush down like the Alpine avalanche,
Startling the nations; and the very stars,
Yon bright and burning blaze of God,
Glitter awhile in their eternal depths,
And, like the Pleiades, loveliest of their train,
Shoot from their glorious spheres, and pass away
To darken in the trackless void—yet Time—
Time, the tomb builder, holds his fierce career
Dark, stern, all pitiless, and pauses not
Amid the mighty wrecks that strew his path,
To sit and muse, like other conquerors,
Upon the fearful ruin he has wrought!

—George D. Prentiss

GREAT DAY FOR THE ROMANS.

Right Beginning of New Year Meant for Them Success.

No nation has ascribed so much importance to the beginning of things as the Roman. To that people there was a magical connection between a right beginning and success. To them New Year's day was the day of days. It was the anniversary of the founding of the city of Rome, which they considered the greatest event in the world's history. They called the first month of the year January in honor of Janus, the god of doors and beginnings. (The world still uses a heathen calendar.) At dawn of the new year the people, robed in white, sacrificed elaborate offerings to their gods, especially to Janus. Fraternal greetings, benevolent gifts and exchanges of costly presents marked the day. All evil-speaking, quarrels or excesses were for one day laid aside and the ideals for a nobler future were brought to mind by parables enacted in public places. The soldiers renewed their vows of loyalty to Caesar and put on new uniforms.

The Animals' Season Greetings. The action and voices of domestic animals on New Year's day are said to be more significant than any other omens.

A dog's cheerful bark in the morning is a most auspicious sign, while his howl is very unfavorable.

To meet the cat on the morn of the New Year is considered by people in the Latin countries as a sign that they will change their residence, and it also betokens ill for the future.

Throughout southern Europe it is regarded as a most fortunate sign to see a pig, signifying plenty for the coming twelve months.

The sight of a snake is considered to be the worst conceivable omen, for it means death by violence.

To see a jackdaw, magpie, or crow is a sign that the beholder will be cheated on all sides during the following year.

Land of Many Tongues.

An American tourist who traveled through Hungary last summer in his automobile says that he found the signboards in German, Magyar, Italian, Slavonian and Turkish. Preference was given to none.